

**Midlothian Council**  
**28 March 2017**

**Notice of Motion**

As instructed by Scottish Government, this Council has been forced to increase Council Tax for properties within bands E to H significantly, some bands by as much as a 22.5% increase.

The Scottish Government's initial attempts to take this funding to spend on National priorities in areas out-with Midlothian was eventually abandoned after a huge public outcry.

However, Scottish Government Grants to Midlothian Council were subsequently cut by a figure beyond what had been expected, leaving the Council having to raid its limited reserves and cut services to balance the 2017/2018 budget. Midlothian Council is now in a position that many thousands of Council Tax payers will pay considerably more but Midlothian Council will have millions of pounds less and as such must cut services drastically to balance its books next year.

This Council now instructs the Chief Executive to write with immediate effect to all Midlothian households explaining that the significant increase in Council Tax has resulted from the direct instruction from the Scottish Government and not from Midlothian Council's own decision makers. He should use the table below to explain the rises.

**Table 1: Increase in Council Tax Bands E-H**

	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Equivalent No of Dwellings (as at Sept 2016)	4145.3	2927.8	1861.3	158.6
Existing Council Tax	£1,478.89	£1,747.78	£2,016.67	£2,420.00
Increased Council Tax*	£1,585.10	£1,966.25	£2,369.58	£2,964.50
Increase *	£106.21	£218.47	£352.91	£544.50
Percentage Increase*	7.2%	12.5%	17.5%	22.5%

\*Note this is before a 3% increase across all bands is applied

This Council is aware that other local authorities have also written to their customers making them aware of this direct interference by the Scottish Government in Council Tax policies, interference which threatens the independence of Local Government and hence local democracy.

Moved:



**COUNCILLOR PETER de VINK**

Seconded:



**COUNCILLOR DEREK MILLIGAN**